

2021 Putnam County Fair Skill-a-thon

- Market animal exhibitors will be required to report to the Ag Center Auditorium OR a virtual format (which youth will be informed of during the mandatory meeting) on **Saturday, March 6, 2021**, to participate in the fair skill-a-thon. Skill-a-thon is divided into animal species and exhibitor age division as follows:
 - 10:00 am - Junior Swine Exhibitors
 - 10:45 am - Junior Beef Exhibitors
 - 11:30 am - Intermediate Swine Exhibitors
 - 12:30 pm - Intermediate Beef Exhibitors
 - 1:30 pm - Senior Swine Exhibitors
 - 2:15 pm - Senior Beef Exhibitors
- Failure to take the skill-a-thon will result in a \$50 fine that will be removed from your livestock check.
- Youth will participate in the skill-a-thon related to the animal(s) they are showing. For example, if you are showing both a hog and a heifer you are expected to attend both the swine and beef cattle skill-a-thons.
- Youth will be asked to complete a series of questions related to the market animal they are showing
- Basic material helping educate youth will be provided at the mandatory meetings.
- The Skill-a-thon topic for this year is **GROWING AND SHOWING LIVESTOCK**. All questions will pertain to the topic for the year. Youth assume the responsibility for the management of their livestock and the overall health of their animal(s). Failure to correctly maintain animal health can lead to animal suffering, decreased productivity and could even affect human health. Youth are encouraged to research and learn about the animal they are showing, including but not limited to: preventing and recognizing illness, animal identification, and parts of the animal. Some additional topics the youth will need to study to succeed at the skill-a-thon are:
 - **Juniors:** showmanship and ethics, basic livestock evaluation, and the livestock industry
 - **Intermediates:** all of above plus...animal handling, evaluating show animals, and livestock equipment/tools
 - **Seniors:** all of above plus...managing livestock, careers in livestock, and working a budget

*****These are just recommendations, not what is guaranteed to be on the skill-a-thon. All exhibitors should use this as a guideline but know as much as possible about their livestock projects.**

- Youth should **check-in at least 15 minutes prior to the start** of the skill-a-thon. This will allow plenty of time to register and receive the clicker (or meet requirements for virtual format) they will be using for the skill-a-thon. The clicker/computer will electronically record the individual youth's response.
- If meeting in person, youth are required to return the clicker to the registration table before leaving. Unreturned clickers will incur a fine for the cost of replacing the electronic clicker.
- Only youth participating in the skill-a-thon should be present during the skill-a-thon. Talking is prohibited to ensure the skill-a-thon is fair to everyone participating. If held virtually all attempts will be made to ensure fairness amongst the competition.
- If a child has needs special accommodations for the skill-a-thon they are required to contact Crystal McCazzio at 386-329-0323 at least a week prior to the skill-a-thon to make arrangements.
- Awards:
 - Beef: 1st – 3rd places in Junior, Intermediate, and Senior Division
 - Swine: 1st – 3rd places in Junior, Intermediate, and Senior Division
- Premiums may be awarded after all sponsorship has been collected and all show expenses have been paid.
- Awards will be presented at the same time as other awards at fair livestock banquet
- The Putnam County Fair Authority reserves the right to make any changes to the information above as deemed necessary.